

A HAND BOOK OF ONGE LANGUAGE

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D. Dasgupta

Editor

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*Some of the items enlisted in the vocabulary are short sentences.

INTRODUCTION

The Handbook of the Onge language has been prepared primarily on the basis of the published language material (Radcliffe-Brown, 1914, Nigam, 1955-56, Ganguly, 1961) with a view to providing the non-linguists with some basic working knowledge of the language to enable them to interact with the Onges in a better way, since the Onge language is hitherto unintelligible to the outsiders.

A short linguistic field work was conducted in Little Andaman in April, 1976, to check up some of the published language material and to collect additional data. As Ganguly's material is comparatively exhaustive and the variations were found to be negligible during the field investigation, his material has been incorporated in the present handbook as much as possible. Some important rules of word formation with examples have been given repeatedly in the various sections of the handbook to enable the learner to memorise and use the handbook easily.

It is to be noted that though few Onges can communicate in Hindi with the outsiders to some extent, their areas of interaction with the outsiders are very much restricted with the result that the Onges, by and large, are still monolingual. Ganguly's language material virtually served as a basis for the field work among the Onges in Little Andaman.

The Onge is a small tribe inhabiting in little Andaman which is the southernmost island of the Andaman

Archipelago. The group of Andaman islands consists of about 265 islands (vide, Statistical Abstracts, Andaman Administration, Port Blair) big or small in the Bay of Bengal stretching between 10°13'N—13°30'N Latitude and 92°15'E—93°10'E Longitude.

The total area of little Andaman is 282.46 square miles and is covered with dense tropical forest.

The Onges call themselves *ëie* which means 'man'. They are nomadic hunters and food gatherers. The tribe appears to be dwindling very fast and the present number of individuals would hardly be little above one hundred.

No detailed descriptive study on Onge language has yet been done. On the basis of available language material no genetic relationship could have been established with any family of languages spoken in the main land of India.

The present handbook has been prepared under the supervision of Shree Krishan, Senior Linguist, Anthropological Survey of India.

The data were collected mainly from the following informants who were camping at Dugong Creek.

1. Nabikutai.
2. Bara Raju
3. Chota Raju
4. Boro gegi
5. Ramu and other members of the group,

Note:

- indicates analysed forms
- / indicates alternative forms or meanings
- ~ indicates alternative forms or allomorphs
- > indicates 'becomes'

English gloss followed by an interrogative mark (?)

indicates that the meaning is not certain.

CHAPTER ONE

Speech Sounds of Onge

Vowels

/o/ Lower-mid, back, rounded, pronounced somewhat like "o" in English "hot", Bengali ও in অনেক (anek) "many".

Onge, onne "want something"

tonki "night"

gibbo "his cheek"

/a/ Low, central, unrounded, pronounced somewhat like Hindi आ in काट (kāt) "to cut", Bengali আ in আমি (āmi) "I".

Onge, agene "sand"

ñabe "wife having no child (term of address)"

cEta "later"

/i/ High, front, unrounded, pronounced somewhat like "i" in English "fit", Hindi इ in इमली (imli) "tamarind".

Onge, icele "path ; way"

lioya "here"

uli "stone".

/u/ High, back, rounded, pronounced somewhat like English "u" in "put", Hindi उ in उमर (umar) "age".

Onge, ueme "dog"

tonkulu "sun"

icu "dark".

/e/ Higher-mid, front, unrounded, pronounced somewhat like English "e" in "pen", Bengali এ in একটি (ekti) "one".

Onge, ecele "child"

inene "foreigner (male)"
we "clay"

/E/ Lower-mid, front, unrounded, pronounced somewhat like English "a" in "fair", Hindi ऐ in है (hai) "is".

Onge, Entoge "grown up unmarried boy"
bEja "dark cloud (which rains)"
eJeleE "urinate"

/o/ Higher-mid, back, rounded, pronounced somewhat like Hindi ओ in ओस (os) "dew", Bengali ও in ও়া (orā) "they".

Onge, oto "fruit"
koone "snake"
coybo "rat"

/ë/ Higher-mid, back, unrounded, pronounced somewhat like German "Ö" in "SchÖn" but German Ö is higher-mid, front, unrounded, whereas Onge "ë" is higher-mid, back, unrounded. To produce this sound, pronounce "o" keeping the lips spread. This sound has no equivalent in English or in wellknown Indian languages.

Onge, ëne "man"

lëcune "there (not far away)"

kē "harpoon (for hunting Dugong and turtle)"

Consonants

/k/ Voiceless unaspirated velar stop, pronounced somewhat like English "k" in "akin", Hindi क in कमल (kamal) "lotus".
 Onge, kue "pig"
 maaka "at me"

/g/ Voiced unaspirated velar stop, pronounced somewhat like English "g" in "ago". Hindi ग in गीत (git) "song".
 Onge, gea "land"
 coge "fish"

/ñ/ Velar nasal, pronounced like "ng" in English "ring" Hindi ञ in रंग~रङ्ग (rañg) "colour".
 Onge, ni "you" (sg.)
 da?ñe "tree ; canoe"
 ñe "water"

/c/ Voiceless unaspirated palatal affricate, pronounced somewhat like English "ch" in "church", Hindi च in चाय (cāy) "tea".
 Onge, cileme "moon"
 ice "now"

Onge, "c" is nearer to Hindi च than English "ch".

/j/ Voiced unaspirated palatal affricate, pronounced somewhat like English "j" in "judge", Hindi ज

in जन्म (janam). Onge "j" is nearer to Hindi ज than English "j".

Onge, jiwaye "a variety of crab"
gejale "his face"

/ñ/ Palatal nasal. Tongue position is same as it is made to pronounce Hindi ञ but the air-stream is released through the nose only. It is somewhat like Sanskrit ञ.

Onge, ñaña "prawn"
tañja "honey"

/l/ Voiceless unaspirated alveolar stop, pronounced somewhat like English "t" in "material", Assamese त in तिनि (tini) "three".

Onge, loga "naked"
tôñkute "ashes"

/d/ Voiced unaspirated alveolar stop, pronounced somewhat like English "d" in "date", Assamese द in दिन (din) "day".

Onge, dankale "a kind of tree"
tiñdeme "husband having no child
(term of address)."

/n/ Alveolar nasal, pronounced somewhat like English "n" in "any", Hindi न in नवीन (navin) "new".

Onge, narema "not"/"no"
bini "to speak ; throw"

/b/ Voiced unaspirated bilabial stop, pronounced

somewhat like English "b" in "bite", Hindi ब in बन्द (band) "close".

Onge, bEra "communal hut"
ebara "small girl"

/m/ bilabial nasal, pronounced somewhat like English "m" in "man", Hindi म in मकान (makān) "house".
Onge, mi "प"
umuge "pigeon"

/y/ Palatal semivowel, pronounced somewhat like English "y" in "yes", Hindi य in याद (yād) "memory".
Onge, yama "burn (something by fire)"
debaye "son ; daughter (term of address)"

/r/ Alveolar trill, pronounced somewhat like English "r" in "rib", Hindi र in रात (rāt) "night".
Onge, uentayra "puppy"
giru "brown"
korale "temporary hut"

/l/ Alveolar lateral, pronounced somewhat like English "l" in "like", Hindi ल in लड़का (laṛkā) "boy".
Onge, le "honey"
wekala "white ; white clay "

/w/ Bilabial semivowel, pronounced somewhat like English "w" in "water", Hindi व in वापस (vāpas)

"return". Onge "w" is nearer to English "w" than Hindi *व*.

Onge, *we* "clay"

-icwe "keep (pork in the basket)".

/?/ Glottal stop.

To pronounce this sound the air stream is stopped at the glottis and released abruptly. This sound resembles Mundari "?" in "da?" "water".

Onge, *da?ne* "tree, canoes".

ko? "take" (imp.)

CHAPTER TWO

Some Important Features of Onge Word Formation

Structurally all Onge words fall under two main categories: (i) Independent forms and (ii) Dependent forms.* Independent forms can occur independently, e.g. kue "pig", wekala "white", ebara "small girl", inene "foreigner (male)". The Independent forms may begin either with a vowel or with a consonant.

Dependent forms do not occur alone—they always occur with personal prefixes., e.g., goticu "his head". g- is third person singular prefix "his" -oticu "head" (Dependent form). Dependent forms begin with a vowel and generally include kinship terms, forms denoting parts of a whole, names of body parts, some verbs and attributes, postpositions denoting location, direction etc. The dependent forms take noun or pronoun as prefix which shows possession in noun forms and subject or object relationship in verb forms, e.g. uemegioticu "the dog's head" (ueme"dog"+gi "the"+oticu "head") molagebe "I danced" (m- "1st. person singular prefix" functions as subject+olage "dance"+be "tense suffix"), koonegi gitebe "the snake bit him" (koone "snake"+gi "the"+g- "3rd person singular suffix" functions as object+ite "bite"+be "tense suffix").

*Dependent forms are marked with a - (hyphen) before the form in the vocabulary.

Pronominal Prefixes

Onge has the following pronominal prefixes which are added to the dependent forms:

(i) m- first person singular, e.g., moticu "my head".

m- "my"

-oticu "head"

(ii) et- ~ ot- 1st person plural.

(a) et- occurs with the forms beginning with i.e., E, a, e.g., etejalle "our faces".

et- "our"

-ejalle "faces" (-ejale+pl. suffix- le)

(b) ot- occurs with the forms beginning with o, u, o, e.g., ototicule "our heads".

ot- "our"

-oticule "heads"

(-oticu+pl. suffix-le)

It is observed in the speech of some Onges that et- freely varies with ot- : etoticule ~ ototicule.

(iii) n- second person singular.

e.g., noticu "your head".

n- "your. (sg.)"

-oticu "head"

(iv) n- second person plural

e.g., noticule "your heads".

n- "your (pl.)"

-oticule "heads"

(v) **g-** third person singular.

e.g., goticu "his head."

g- "his"

-oticu "head"

(vi) **ek- ~ ok- ~ekw-** "3rd. person plural".

(a) **ek-** occurs with the forms which begin with u, e.g., ekuenle "their dogs".

ek- "their"

uenle 'dogs"

(b) **ok-** occurs with the forms having o, o in the beginning, e.g., ekoticule "their heads".

ek- "their"

-oticule "heads"

It is observed in the speech of some Onges that **ek-** freely varies with **ok-** : okoticule ~ ekoticule.

(c) **ekw-** occurs with forms which begin with i, e, E, a, e.g., ekwejalle "their faces"

ekw- "their"

ejalle "faces"

(vii) **on- ~ ēn-** indefinite third person (sg. pl.) whenever placed before a noun, indicates possession by some one (human).

(a) **on-** occurs with those forms which begin with o and o., e.g., onoticu "some one's head"

on- "some one (human)"
 -oticu "head"
 onoticule "someone's heads".
 onongele "some one fails to get"
 on- "someone"
 -ongele "fail to get"

(b) *ən-* occurs with other forms

ənejale "some one's face (human face)" ;
 -ejale "face"
 ənejebo "some one's eye (human eye)" ;
 -ejebo "eye"

Number

There are three numbers in Onge, viz., singular, dual and plural. Generally, following suffixes are added to the nouns.

For Singular —	-da or -ra is added,
for dual —	-dena or -rena is added,
for plural —	-le is added
But some nouns take	-di or -ri for singular
	-deni or -reni for dual
	-ni for plural.

Some examples are given showing the use of number suffixes.

Onge	English	singular	dual	plural
inene	"foreigner"	inenda	inendena	inenle
da?ne	"canoe"	da?nda	da?ndena	da?nle

Onge	English	singular	dual	plural
ueme	"dog"	uenda	uendena	uenle
kue	"pig"	kuera	kuerena	kuele
umuge	"pigeon"	umudda	umuddena	umulle
ale	"child"	aleri	alereni	alenni
wawa	"crow"	wawara	wawarena	wawale

Number suffix seems to be closely attached to certain kinship terms, however, it is not obligatory. e.g.,

ume "father"

kay "mother"

kolo "grand-father" if separated from their number, suffixes, function only as vocatives, whereas

umeri

kayri

koloddi seems to function in all syntactical relations.

Article

gi- ~ -i (definite article) occurs with the nouns. It is not possible to define the distribution of the article -gi or -i either phonologically or morphologically on the basis of the present data. However, we can list some words which take -gi (e.g. bennane-gi "the sky") and some other which take -i (e.g. toñkulu-i "the sun").

Words which take -gi

bennane	"sky"
ueme	"dog"
narelane	"turtle"
coge	"fish"

Words which take -i

toñkulu	"sun"
kue	"pig"
wawa	"crow"
cEñkwete	"frog"

Words which take -gi

umuge	"pigeon"
koone	"snake"
kame	"mat"
da?ne	"canoe"
atane	"cane"
bulundane	"monkey jackfruit"

Words which take -i

korige	"owl"
tirannanaiacu	"shark"
niaña	"prawn"
ebe	"thread"
nareEle	"coconut"
gigi	"tuber"

Syntactic Relations

There are certain suffixes which indicate syntactic relations. -a indicates possession, instrument and location.

Possessor always precedes the possessed form. In case of dependent noun forms prefixation is obligatory. When the possessed form is independent, the possessor takes the suffix -a after the article -gi ~ -i. The vowel of the article is elided, e.g.,

ënega kwelabo "the onge's cloth"

consists of ëne "onge" + -gi "article" + -a
"possessive suffix" + kwelabo "cloth".

the -i of the article -gi is elided in the combined form.

The independent noun forms used as possessed forms may be classed into two classes :

(i) The nouns before which the possessor is directly added without any possessive suffix, however, such noun forms are less in frequency. e.g.,

ënegibEra "the Onge's hut"

ënegiberEe "the Onge's canoe"

ënegiemma "the Onge's mat"

(ii) The noun forms with which the possessor may be compounded or before which it may occur as a separate form with the suffix -a. e.g.,

čnegikame or
čnegaga kame "the onge's mat"

čnegicikwe or
čnegaga cikwe "the onge's net"

čnegitolewaga or
čnegaga tolewaga "the onge's basket"

Possessor also occurs as a separate form with suffix -a in case of most of the nouns. -a also indicates instrument and location e.g.,

(lEbanare+a) lEbanarea "at lebanare (creek)"
(Egi+a) lega "by the knife"
(i+omegi+a) nomega "by your hand"

Sometimes -e also functions as locative or instrumental but with a slight difference in meaning. e.g.,

(icelegi + e) icelege "through the path"
(da?negi + e) da?nege "by means of canoe"

-ta and -ba are temporal suffixes indicating sense of past and future time respectively.

e.g., ekuetat "in today (past)"
ekuebat "in today (future)"
ekuet "day, today"

tonkita "yesterday"
 tonkiba "at night (future)"
 tonki "night"
 ecekota "just before"
 ecekoba "just after"
 eceko "now"

Pronouns

Pronouns may be classed as personal, demonstrative, interrogative and reflexive. Personal pronouns have the distinction of singular and plural except third person (indefinite) *əni*.

mi "I"
 eti "we"
 ni "you (sg.)"
 ni "you (pl.)"
 gi "he, she, it."
 ekwi "they (pl.)"
 əni "he, they" indefinite (3rd person).

Personal pronouns are related to the pronominal prefixes and occur with the dependent forms.

Third person singular pronoun and article are identical in form (-gi).

Usually personal pronouns occur in the subject position as substitute of nouns, but when they occur in the position of an object or as possessor they generally take the suffix -a. The vowel -i of the personal pronoun is elided in such cases.

- (mi+a) ma "my, me"
- (eti+a) eta "our, us"
- (ni+a) na "your (sg.)"
- (ni+a) na "your (pl.)"
- (gi+a) ga "his, him, her, its"
- (ekwi+a) ekwa "their, them"

But third person indefinite in combination with the suffix -a (ëna) have not been observed in the data so far.

In possessive formations mi, ni etc. forms are combined with independent possessed nouns of class (i) as stated above; examples :

- etibEra "our hut"
- gibereE "his canoe"

ma, na, ga etc. occur before the class (ii) nouns as stated above.

- e.g., ma kwelabo "my cloth"
- na takwe "your smoking pipe."

Reflexive Pronouns

The suffix -akwi is added to the pronouns in order to form reflexive pronouns.

Examples

- (mi+akui) makui "myself"
- (eti+akui) etakui "ourselves"
- (ni+akui) nakui "yourself"
- (ni+akui) nakui "yourselves"

(gi + akui) gakui "himself"
 (ekwi + akui) ekwakui "themselves"

Demonstrative Pronouns

Followings are the demonstrative pronouns in Onge.

li "this or these"
 lē "that or those" (not far away)
 lua "that or those" (far away)

They are combined with other elements such as -kai "person or thing" and

-oya "place", therefore, the formations will be :

likai "this person or thing"
 (likai + reni) likareni "these two persons or things"
 lēkai "that person or thing (not far away)"
 luakai "that person or thing (far away)"
 lioya "here (place)"
 lēoya "there (place not far away)"
 luaoya "there (place far away)"

They precede the nouns which they qualify, e.g.,
 (li + icelegi + -e) licelege "through this path",

Interrogative Pronouns

Commonly one, kwa and ña forms express the sense of question or interrogation. Meanings of these are determined by the contexts in which they are used. They may be used as free forms by themselves or can be combined with other forms to make interrogative pronouns.

Examples

one "which"
 oneruko "which direction"
 onenare "what"
 onerena "why"
 kwa or ko "where"
 kwace "what, how"
 ūakai "which person or thing"
 ūakaya "whose"
 naoya "which place"

The following sentences show the use of kwa and ūa as free forms :

1. *kwa ūakai gawaleteke.*
who is peeping into ?
2. *kwa ūakalabukele uenlei.*
To whom are the dogs barking ?
3. *ūa gakēewa.*
Has he a harpoon ?...

Post-Positions

There is a class of post-positions which are added to the nouns and pronouns to indicate direction and location. Final vowels of the nouns and pronouns are elided.

Examples

-ota "towards" "towards"
 (mi + ota) mota "towards me"

(gi + ota) *gota* "towards him"
 (ni + ota) *nota* "towards you (sg.)"
 (ni + ota) *notā* "towards you (pl.)"
 (kue + ota) *kuota* "towards the pig"
 (ueme + ota) *uemota* "towards the dog"

1. *mi kuburāgannebota loṅgotigannāñka* "I poured tea from bamboo container towards the mug".

—*oñka* "at, by"

(mi + añka) *mañka* "at me"
 (gi + añka) *gañka* "at him"
 (ni + añka) *ñañka* "at you (sg.)"

1. *gi ukuannāñka tanjaibube* "he poured honey in the (at the) bucket"

2. *ēnegi duamembanka gitekombanika*

The Onge becomes spirit when after climbing a tree he falls (dies by climbing and by falling).

—*ejeka* "away"

(mi + ejeka) *mejeka* "away from me"
 (gi + ejeka) *gejeka* "away from him"
 (ni + ejeka) *nejeka* "away from you (sg.)",

—*oñota* "With"

(mi + oñota) *moñota* "with me"
 (gi + oñota) *goñota* "with him"
 (ni + oñota) *noñota* "with you" (sg.)
 (ni + oñota) *noñota* "with you (pl.)"

(beleme + onota) belemonota "with smoke"

(ueme + onota) uemonota "with dog"

Verb

Onge verb-structure

Onge verb generally consists of the following components.

Simple Verb

E.g. ekwakobelatellebegi "they came running".

Prefixed noun or pronoun (obligatory for depend- ent verb stems only).	Verb Stem	Suffix indicating direction or location	Number suffix occurs only when the subject is	Suffix indicating tense, aspect and subject in pl.
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------	--------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------

ekw -	-akobela	-te	-lle	-be	-gi
Third person pl. prefix.	"run"	"direction"	pl.	completive aspect	indicative

If a verb has both subject and object, the object is prefixed to the dependent verb form and subject occurs separately preceding the verbal form. e.g.,

mi cɔgegiantitebe "I shot the fish with arrow"

Subject.	Object	Verb.	Completive aspect.
mi	cɔgegi	-antite	-be
"I"	"fish the"	"to pierce"	completive suffix with arrow."

If the verb does not have the object, and the subject is a personal pronoun, then the subject is prefixed to the dependent verb form.

E.g.,	mentitebe	"I shot with arrow"
Subject	Verb	Compleutive aspect,
m-	-antite	-be
"I"	"to pierce with arrow"	Compleutive Suffix

A major portion of the verb stem structures is simple as indicated in the above chart but there are some compound verb stems too. In the compound verb the second verb is preceded by the main verb and its initial syllable is elided, e.g.,

—akobelatuke "run out"
 (-akobela "run"
 +utuke "be born, come out")
 —antekēlakwe "remain sitting"
 (-antekē "sit"+bElakwe "stay")

As stated above in the chart that prefixation of a noun or pronoun is obligatory for dependent verbs whereas independent verbs do not take such prefixes.

Both dependent and independent verbs may further be classified as transitive (with object) and intransitive (without object). The prefix of the dependent intransitive verb indicates the subject of the verb, e.g.,

milokwale "I eat"
 etilokwale "we eat"
 nilokwale "you eat (sg.)"
 nilokwale "you eat (pl.)"
 gilokwale "he eats"
 ekwilokwale "they eat (pl.)"

The prefix of the dependent transitive verb indicates the object of the verb, e.g.,

gi malabukea "he scolds me"
 mi galabukea "I scold him"
 gi halabukea "he scolds you"
 ni galabukea "you scold him"

When an intransitive verb is used transitively (i.e., takes an object) the suffix -a is added to the object, e.g., takwega mangotabele "I smoke the pipe."

takwe "pipe"
 + -gi "article"
 + -a "suffix (for object)"
 m - "first person singular subject prefix"
 + -a ngotabele "smoke (intransitive verb)"

In case of independent verbs the subject and the object usually occur as separate forms, e.g.,

1. wega gi ma uebe "she painted me with clay"
2. ni ma aingibete belebe "you gave me a match-box"
3. mi omokabe "I slept"

There is a class of suffixes which are added to verbal forms to indicate direction and location, such as -ji, -ke, -ne, -te.

Examples.

- ale?maji "return (from a near by place)"
- ale?make "return" (from far away)
- akobelete "run (to the speaker)"
- akobelanne "run (from the speaker)"
- bEette "climb up"
- bEiji "come down"
- ugi?kei "fly"
- ugi?kete "fly away"

It appears from the data collected so far that some verbs take a number suffix when its subject is in the plural form. However, it is difficult to state this process through some rule.

E.g., molagebe "I danced"

(m- "first person singular prefix"
+ -olage "dance"

+ -be "completive suffix".)

otolagellebe "we danced"

getabetebe "he drowned"

ekwetabellebe "they drowned"

gi bencamebe "he died"

ekwi bencamellebe "they died"

Some verbs take plural number suffix to indicate repeated action, e.g.,

ni miekwellebe "you beat me repeatedly"
 (m - first person sg. prefix.
 + - iekwe "beat"
 + - lle "plural suffix"
 + - be "completive suffix")

Suffixes indicating tense, aspect and mode are given below.

Examples:

-be "suffix usually indicates past or the action which is completed already."

"une? to go, to come"

(independent verb form)

mi	une?be	"I went"
eti	une?be	"we went" (pl.)
ni	une?be	"you went" (sg.)
ni	une?be	"you went" (pl.)
gi	une?be	"he went"
ekwi	une?be	"they went" (pl.)

omoka "to sleep"

(independent verb form)

mi	omokabe	"I slept"
eti	omokabe	"we slept"
ni	omokabe	"you slept" (sg.)
ni	omokabe	"you slept" (pl.)
gi	omokabe	"he slept"

ekwi omokabe "they slept"

ekwi omokabe ma "they did not sleep"

Note : Negation *ma* is generally added at the end of simple sentences.

enii "to laugh"
(independent verb form)

mi	enii	"I laughed"
eti	enii	"we laughed"
ni	enii	"you laughed" (sg.)
ni	enii	"you laughed" (pl.)
gi	enii	"he laughed"
ekwi	enii	"they laughed"

-a~ -E indicates present continuous tense or immediate future, e.g.,

une? "to go/to come"

mi	une?a/une?E	"I am going"
eti	une?a/une?E	"we are going"
ni	une?a/une?E	"you are going (sg.)"
ni	une?a/une?E	"you are going (pl.)"
gi	une?a/une?E	"he is going"
ekwi	une?a/une?E	"they are going"

omoka "to sleep"

mi	omokaE	"I am sleeping"
eti	omokaE	"we are sleeping"
ni	omokaE	"you are sleeping" (sg.)
ni	omokaE	"you are sleeping" (pl.)

gi omokaE "he is sleeping"
 ekwi omokaE "they are sleeping"

enī "to laugh"

mi enia/enīE "I am laughing"
 eti enia "we are laughing"
 ni enia "you are laughing" (sg.)
 ni enia "you are laughing" (pl.)
 gi enia "he is laughing"
 ekwi enia "they are laughing"

-nene indicates future tense and also imperative mood (i.e., command).

inkē "go"

(independent verb form)

mi inkēnene "I shall go"
 eti inkēnene "we shall go"
 ni inkēnene "you will go" (sg.)
 ni inkēnene "you will go" (pl.)
 gi inkēnene "he will go"
 ekwi inkēnene "they will go"

imperative mood, command

inkēnene "go away" (command, order)
 or

ni inkēnene "you go away (imp., sg.)
 ni inkēnene "you go away (imp., pl.)

-nene "Future tense".

omoka "to sleep"

mi	omokanene	"I shall sleep"
eti	omokanene	"we shall sleep"
ni	omokanene	"you will sleep" (sg.)
ni	omokanene	"you will sleep" (pl.)
gi	omokanene	"he will sleep"
ekwi	omokanene	"they will sleep"

imperative mood (command).

omokanene "sleep (imp.)"

or

ni	omokanene	"you sleep (imp., sg.)"
ni	omokanene	"you sleep (imp., pl.)"

—nene "Future tense".

eñi "to laugh"

mi	eñinene	"I shall laugh"
eti	eñinene	"we shall laugh"
ni	eñinene	"you will laugh" (sg.)
ni	eñinene	"you will laugh" (pl.)
gi	eñinene	"he will laugh"
ekwi	eñinene	"they will laugh"

imperative mood (command)

eñinene "laugh (imp.)"

ni eñinene "you laugh" (imp., sg.)

ni eñinene "you laugh" (imp., pl.)

—kaka indicates *subsequent or distant future time*
 une? "to go ; to come"

mi	une?kaka	"I shall go"
eti	une?kaka	"we shall go"
ni	une?kaka	"you will go (sg.)"
ni	une?kaka	"you will go (pl.)"
gi	une?kaka	"he will go"
ekwi	une?kaka	"they will go"

omoka "to sleep"

mi	omokakaka	"I shall sleep."
eti	omokakaka	"we shall sleep"
ni	omokakaka	"you will sleep" (sg.)
ni	omokakaka	"you will sleep" (pl.)
gi	omokakaka	"he will sleep"
ekwi	omokakaka	"they will sleep"

eñi "to laugh"

mi	eñikaka	"I shall laugh"
eti	eñikaka	"we shall laugh"
ni	eñikaka	"you will laugh" (sg.)
ni	eñikaka	"you will laugh" (pl.)
gi	eñikaka	"he will laugh"
ekwi	eñikaka	"they will laugh"

—ba indicates *indefinite future time*
 une? "to go, to come."

mi	une?ba	"I shall go"
eti	une?ba	"we shall go"

ni	une?ba	"you will go" (sg.)
ni	une?ba	"you will go" (pl.)
gi	une?ba	"he will go"
ekwi	une?ba	"they will go"

omoka "to sleep"

mi	omokaba	"I shall sleep"
eti	omokaba	"we shall sleep"
ni	omokaba	"you will sleep" (sg.)
ni	omokaba	"you will sleep" (pl.)
gi	omokaba	"he will sleep"
ekwi	omokaba	"they will sleep"

eñi "to laugh"

mi	eñiba	"I shall laugh"
eti	eñiba	"we shall laugh"
ni	eñiba	"you will laugh" (sg.)
ni	eñiba	"you will laugh" (pl.)
gi	eñiba	"he will laugh"
ekwi	eñiba	"they will laugh"

—ilokowale "eat" —be "past compleptive"
(dependent verb form)

milokowalebe	"I ate"
etilokowalebe	"we ate"
ñilokowalebe	"you ate" (sg.)
ñilokowalebe	"you ate" (pl.)
gilokowalebe	"he ate"
ekwilokowallebe	"they ate"

—injo "drink"
(dependent verb form)

minjobe	"I drank"
etinjlebe	"we drank"
ninjobe	"you drank" (sg.)
ninjlebe	"you drank" (pl.)
ginjobe	"he drank"
ekwinjlebe	"they drank"

lakonne "bring"
(independent verb form)

mi	lakonnebe	"I brought"
eti	lakonnebe	"we brought"
ni	lakonnebe	"you brought" (sg.)
ni	lakonnebe	"you brought" (pl.)
gi	lakonnebe	"he brought"
ekwi	lakonnebe	"they brought"

—a~—E Present continuous tense or immediate future,
—ilokowale "to eat"

milokowalea	"I am eating"
etilokowallea	"we are eating"
nilokowalea	"you are eating" (sg.)
nilokowallea	"you are eating" (pl.)
gilokowalea	"he is eating"
ekwilokowallea	"they are eating"

—injo "to drink"

minjoa "I am drinking"

etinjlea	"we are drinking"
ninjoa	"you are drinking" (sg.)
ninjlea	"you are drinking" (pl.)
ginjoa	"he is drinking"
ekwinjlea	"they are drinking"

lokonne "to bring"

mi	lakonnea	"I am bringing"
eti	lakonnea	"we are bringing"
ni	lakonnea	"you are bringing" (sg.)
ni	lakonnea	"you are bringing" (pl.)
gi	lakonnea	"he is bringing"
ekwi	lakonnea	"they are bringing"

In some cases (specially in Questions) -ke is also found to indicate the continuation of the action or continuous tense.

Examples

- ume ni naoya bElakweke.
Father, where are you staying ?
- nakai beruleke. Who is suffering from fever ?
- kwa nakai gawaleteke. Who is peeping into ?
- nakai nejeka juka tetilebeke.
Who is refusing to give you tobacco ?
- kwaye core ni giabake. Where do you see it ?

-nene future tense and imperative mood (command etc.). -ilokowale

milokowalenene "I shall eat"

etilokowallenene	"we shall eat"
nilokowalenene	"you will eat" (sg.)
nilokowallenene	"you will eat" (pl.)
gilokowalenene	"he will eat"
ekwilokowallenene	"they will eat"

imperative forms

nilokowalenene	"you eat" (imp., sg.)
nilokowallenene	"you eat" (imp., pl.)

-injo

minjonene	"I shall eat"
etinjlenene	"we shall eat"
ninjonene	"you will eat" (sg.)
ninjlenene	"you will eat" (pl.)
ginjolenene	"he will eat"
ekwinjlenene	"they will eat"

imperative forms

ninjonene	"you eat" (sg.)
ninjlenene	"you eat" (pl.)

lakonne "to bring"

mi	lakonnenene	"I shall bring"
eti	lakonnenene	"we shall bring"
ni	lakonnenene	"you will bring" (sg.)
ni	lakonnenene	"you will bring" (pl.)
gi	lokonnenene	"he will bring"
ekwi	lakonnenene	"they will bring"

Imperative forms (commands)

ni	lakonnenene	"you bring" (sg., imp.)
ni	lakonnenene	"you bring" (pl., imp.)
- or -		
	lakonnenene	"bring" (imp.)

—kaka Subsequent or distant future.

—ilokowale "to eat"

milokowalekaka	"I shall eat"
etilokowallekaka	"we shall eat"
milokowalekaka	"you will eat" (sg.)
milokowallekaka	"you will eat" (pl.)
gilokowalekaka	"he will eat"
ekwilogowallekaka	"they will eat"

—injo "to drink"

minjokaka	"I shall drink"
etinjekaka	"we shall drink"
ninjokaka	"you will drink" (sg.)
ninjekaka	"you will drink" (pl.)
ginjokaka	"he will drink"
ekwinjekaka	"they will drink"

lakonne "to bring"

mi	lakonnekaka	"I shall bring"
et	lakonnekaka	"we shall bring"
ni	laknnoekaka	"you will bring" (sg.)
ni	lakonnekaka	"you will bring" (pl.)
gi	lakonnekaka	"he will bring"
ekwi	lakonnekaka	"they will bring"

—ba indefinite future tense

taoe "to eat pig"

mi	kue	taoeba	"I shall eat pig"
eti	kue	taoeba	"we shall eat pig"
ni	kue	taoeba	"you will eat pig" (sg.)
ni	kue	taoeba	"you will eat pig" (pl.)
gi	kue	taoeba	"he will eat pig"
ekwi kue		taoeba	"they will eat pig"

—ilokowale "to eat"

milokowaleba	"I shall eat"
etilokowalleba	"we shall eat"
nilokowaleba	"you will eat" (sg.)
nilokowalleba	"you will eat" (pl.)
gilokowaleba	"you will eat"
ekwilokowalleba	"they will eat"

-injo "drink"

minjoba	"I shall drink"
etinjleba	"we shall drink"
ninjoba	"you will drink" (sg.)
ninjleba	"you will drink" (pl.)
ginjoba	"he will drink"
ekwinjleba	"they will drink"

lakonne "to bring"

mi	lakonneba	"I shall bring"
eti	lakonneba	"we shall bring"
ni	lakonneba	"you will bring" (sg.)
ni	lakonneba	"you will bring" (pl.)

gi	lakonneba	"he will bring"
ekwi	lakonneba	"they will bring"

Conditional Suffix -mba ~ -ba

Examples

1. *toñkilemba boykwele ati*
It becomes evening when night comes.
2. *toñkibukiba gegarikölle ati*
It becomes morning when night ends.

There is another set of suffixes which are added to verbs at the end. -gi and -ge are indicative where as -ki and -ke are interrogative. On the basis of the present data it is difficult to comment about their distribution.

Indicative -gi and -ge

Examples

1. *debaye toñkenene nuteddi haywabagi*
"daughter, go, your mother called you."
2. *ñaganikwentilegi* "where is the foreigner ?".
3. *lua celemegi ukutteEge*
"there the moon is rising."
4. *lua toñkului teikkeEge*
"there the sun is setting."

Interrogative -ki and -ke

Examples

1. toñkita ña ni eñulleki
"did you defecate again and again yesterday?"
2. giebobeki "did it run away?"
3. ñakai beruleke "who is suffering from fever?"
4. ñakai ñejeka juka tetilebeke
"who is refusing to give you tobacco?"
5. aba ni onerukua une?ke
"hey! in which direction are you going?"

To indicate habitual or customary aspect of action or action taking place as a matter of course ati is used after the verbs.

ati habitual or customary action

Examples

1. kwaytembañka tirannañacui ñira ati
"going into the ereek the shark eats the man"
2. umegi eñgamamemba became ati
"the dog dies after becoming old"
3. onotagilelemba eti?nde ati
"we bathe if perspire"

The attributive constructions

The attributive constructions, the head (when it is a noun) takes the article -gi~ -i and attributes are joined after it.

Examples (article is discussed under Nouns).

bEnnañegiela "the sky blue (the sky is blue)"

1. bEnnañe "sky"
 - + - gi "article"
 - + - iela "blue"
2. tsñkuluikulukutuga "The sun is very hot"
 - tsñkulu "sun"
 - + - i "article"
 - + - ikulu "hot"
 - + - ikutu "much"
 - + - ga "suffix"

-ga suffix is found to occur frequently in attributive constructions. However, distribution can not be defined as such.

Examples

legeta gjakutuga "honey also smells very good"

tsñkuluikulukutuga "The sun is very hot"

Sometimes, the attributive form is directly added to the noun form without an interposed article e.g.

1. uentayra "a small dog"
 - uemē "dog"
 - + - itay "small"
 - + - rā "singular suffix"
2. koonuera "a big snake"
 - koñne "snake"
 - + - ue "big"
 - + - ra "singular suffix"

Word Order :

Generally word order in sentences like statements, commands, and questions is :

introductory word or phrase indicating time or location + subject + indirect object + direct object + verb. Examples of various types of sentences and variations in the arrangement of words are given in the list of sentences below.

Sentences.

kwace "hello" (greeting at the time of meeting)

kwace "hello" (in answer to the greeting)

1. kwa *natibe* "what is your name?"

or

2. *natibenene* "tell your name?"

3. *matibe borogegi* "my name is Borogegi"

4. *gatibe nene* "tell his name?"

5. *gatibe (e)raju* "his name is Raju"

6. *kwaycore nikoraleke*

"where is your temporary hut?"

7. *eti lEbanarea koraleke*

"we have temporary hut in Dugong creek"

Notes.

1. kwa "what" *natibe* → *na* + *atibe*

ii. "your" (Pronominal prefix, singular)

-*atibe* "name"

2. -nene future marker suffix, (here used in the sense of "tell")
3. matibe→m- + -atibe
m- "my" (Pronominal prefix)*
4. gatibe→g- + -atibe
g- "his" (Pronominal prefix)*
5. kwayeore "where"
nikoraleke→ni + korale + -ke
ni "your (plural)"
korale "temporary hut"
-ke "suffix indicating direction or continuation of the action" (see verbal suffixes)
7. eti "we" lEbanare + -a lEbanare "Dugong Creek"
-a (suffix indicating location, instrument) "at"

1. kwa nibarabe "Are you well?"
2. mibarobe "I am well"
3. kwace namborobe "Are you happy?"
4. mamborobe "I am happy"
5. eti amborobe "we are happy"
6. ekwiamborobeina "they are not happy"

- - - - -

Notes.

1. kwa "what" or question marker.
nibarabe→n- + ibaro + -be
n- "you" (Pronominal prefix) sg.
ibaro "well"

* For Pronominal prefixes, see page 11

1. -be "completive verbal suffix", also verbalizer

3. kwace "interrogative, "what"
 mamborobe → ma - + -amboro + -be
 -amboro ("happy")

5. etiamborobe → eti- + -amboro + -be
 eti- "we"

6. ekwiamborobema → ekwi- + -amboro + -be + ma
 ekwi- "they"
 -amboro "happy"
 -be "completive verbal suffix"
 ma "negative marker"

1. kwa nariEle ukye

"where is your coconut grove

2. -ma .nariEle l̄ɔya

"my coconut grove is there (not far away)"

3. kwa nariEle a nilokwalebe "Do you eat coconut?"

4. etilokwalebe "we eat (coconut)"

5. etilokwalebe narema "we do not eat (coconut)?"

Notes

1. kwa "what" or question marker
 n̄a "your"
 nariEle "coconut"
 ukye "grove (garden)"

2. ma "my"
 l̄e "that or those"
 -ɔye "place"

3. -a object suffix (see rule under verbal suffixes.)
 nilokwalebe → ni- + -ilokwale + -be
 ni- "you (sg.)"
 -ilokwale "to eat"
 -be "completive suffix"
4. etilokwalebe → eti- + ilokwale + -be.
 eti- "we"
5. narema "not" (negative).

1. eti kwatitokwagukwaṅka nariEle eaṅka atikennebe
 "we take coconut to Hut bay"
2. eti da?nege nariEle kwatitokwagukwaṅka
 atikennebe
 "we take coconut to Hut Bay by boat"
3. eti kwatitokwagikata oroti caeta lakonnebe
 "we bring wheat flour, tea from Hut bay"
4. orotigi gajabebe
 "The oroti (wheat flour) is good"

— — — — —

Notes

1. eti "we"
 kwatitokwagukwaṅka → kwatitokwa + -gi +
 -ukuāṅka
 kwatitokwa "Hut bay"
 gi + ukuāṅka > gukuāṅka
 gi "article the" (see vowel elision rules, p. 81)
 ukuāṅka "in the direction of."
 nariEle 'coconut'
 eaṅka → e + aṅka

-e "locational." -anka "at; to"
 atikennebe→atikenne + -be
 atikenne "take away"
 -be "completive verbal suffix"

2. da?nege→dane + ge
 da?ne canoe
 -ge "by means of"

3. kwatitokwagikata→kwatitokwa + -gi + -kata
 -kata "from" caeta→ca + -eta ca "tea" eta "and"
 lakonnebe→lakonne + -be
 lakonne - "bring"
 -be "completive suffix"

4. orotigi→oroti + -gi
 oroti "wheat flour"
 -gi "article"
 gajabebbe→gajabe + -be
 gajabe "good"
 -be "verbal suffix, completive"

1. mi hatbekata ijyebe "I came from Hut Bay"
 2. kwace namborobe "hallo! are you happy?"
 3. naigi "yes"
 4. etiamborobe "we are happy"
 5. migeaye ulecebe "I am thirsty"
 6. mine injonene "I shall drink water"
 7. ma inegitenene "give me the water"

8. minlea "I shall fetch (water)"
9. a?ndeki "give mere"
10. ko? "take, hold (imp.)"
11. likaibaro "this is good"

— — — — —

Notes

1. mi "I" hatbekata → hatbe + -kata
hatbay (Hatbay, name of a township, Onge place name is kwatitokwa)
-kata - "from." — — — — —
ijyebe → ijye + -be
ijye "come" -be "completive verbal suffix"
2. kwace "hello" "while meeting, a term of greeting"
niamborobe → ni + -amboro + -be
ni "you" (sg.)
-amboro - "heavy"
3. naigi "yes"
4. etiamborobe → eti- + -amboro + -be
eti "we"
5. migeaye → mi + geaye
mi "I"
ulecebe → ulece + -be
ulece "thirst"
-be completive verbal suffix.
-geaye (meaning could not be ascertained)

6. miñeijonene → mi + iñe + -injo + nene
iñe "water", -injo "to drink" -nene "future suffix".
7. ma "me" iñegitenene → iñe + -gi + -ite + nene.
-gi "article" -ite "to drink"
8. minlea → mi + -inle + -a
-inle "fetch water"
-a "immediate future tense suffix"
11. likaibaro → likai + -ibaro likai "this"
-ibaro "good"

1. ñakai beruleke "who has fever?"
2. mi berulebe "I have fever"
3. gi uletebe "he has ache"
4. ma ecele berulebe "my child has fever."
5. miabanene "I shall see."
6. mi goli belenene "I shall give medicine"
(tablet, etc.)
7. likai goli kɔ? "take this medicine (tab.)"
8. tɔñkiba goli ñilokwanene "at night you eat the
tablet" (imp.)
9. cEta iñeninjonene "later you drink water" (imp.)
10. cEtaii omokanene "later you sleep" (imp.)

Notes.

1. ñakai who. beruleke→berule + -ke
berule "fever"
-ke "verbal suffix (verbalizier)"
2. mi "I" burulebe→berule + -be
-be "completive aspect suffix"
3. gi "he" uletebe→ulete + -be
ulete "ache"
4. ma "my" ecele "child"
5. miabanene mi + -iaba + -nene.
-iaba "see".
-nene "future tense suffix" (also imp.)
6. belenene → bele + nene., bele "give"
7. likai "this" ko? "take (imp.)"
8. tonkiba "at night"
nilokwanene→ni- + ilokwale + -nene.
ni- "you (sg.)" ilokwale "eat"
9. cEta "later" ñinjonene→ni- + -injo + -nene
ñie "water" -injo "drink" -nene
"imperative suffix"
10. omokanene → + nene omoka "sleep".
-nene "(imp. Suffix)".

1. kwani omokabe "did you sleep ? (sg.)"
2. ñaigi "yes"
3. mi omokabe "I slept"

4. mi omokabe ma "I did not sleep"
5. kwace ice namborobe "are you happy now?"
6. naigi "yes"
7. narema "no." goli a?ndeki "give more medicine"
8. mi goli geakaba belenene "I shall give medicine tomorrow."
9. gi da?nekatitekabe "he fell down from the tree."
10. gakwanea "he is feeling pain"
11. mi gakwaikwelenene "you bind it (with a piece) of a cloth on the aching part)"
12. niromamekaka "you will be cured"

- - - - -

Notes

1. kwa "what" question marker ni "you (sg.)"
omokabe → omoka + -be.,
omoka "sleep" -be "completive"
2. naigi "yes" (3) mi "I" (4) ma "not"
5. kwace "question marker, hello for greeting or calling"
ice "now" namborobe → ni + -amboro + -be
ni- "you" -amboro "happy"
7. narema "No." goli "tablet or medicine"
a?ndeki "give more" (8) geakaba "tomorrow"
belenene → bele + -nene. bele "give"
-nene "future tense marker".

9. **gi "he"**

da?nekatitekabe → da?ne + -kata + -iteka + -be
 da?ne "tree"
 -kata "from"
 -iteka "fall down" ("a" of kata is elided)

12. **niromamekaka → n - + -romame + -kaka**
 n - "you ('you', sg.)"
 -romame "to be cured"
 -kaka "distant future tense marker"

1. kwace ni onnea "what do you want?"
2. eti oroti, ca, juka ɔnnebe "we want wheat/flour, tea and tobacco."
3. ekwi kue onnebe "they want pig"
4. kuele gajabe "pigs are good"
5. babulei etati?kebe "Babus are bad"
6. onerera "why"?
7. ekwi kuele gaikwabe "they killed pigs"
8. kɔligaba "where"?
9. gaiboralea "in the forest"
10. boaleta kuele gaiboralea kutu "previously pigs were many in the forest"

- - - - -

Notes

1. ni "you (sg.)" onnea→onne + -a
onne "want" "-a" "verbal suffix indicating continuation of the action"
2. eti "they", oroti "wheat/flour" ca "tea",
juka "tobacco leaves"
onnebe→onne + -be
-be "completive verbal suffix"
4. kuele→kue + -le
kue "pig", -le "plural suffix"
gajabe "good"
5. babulei "Babu term is used to designate the outside workers/labourers who go there for work. They do make distinction between those workers and government officials."
etati?kebe→etati?ke + -be.
etati?ke "bad"
7. gaikwabe→gaikwa + -be. gaikwa "killed"
9. gaiboralea→gaiborale + -a. gaiborale "forest"
-a "in" "locative marker"
10. boaleta "previously"
gaiboraleakutu→gaiborale + -a + -kutu.
-kutu "many", much.

1. kwace ni bEigunene "will you stay in the forest?"
2. naigi, mi bEigunene "yes, I will stay in the forest"
3. mi bEigunenema "I will not stay in the forest"

4. ekwi bEigunene "they will stay in the forest"
5. nāoya ni une?a "where are you going?"
6. kuñjimuriñjotekata eti kue tōrokanene
"after taking tea we will go for pig hunting"
7. kōligaba kue gaikwabe "where did you kill pig?"

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Notes.

1. kwace "question marker," ni "you (sg.)"
bEigunene → bEigu + -nene.
bEigu "to stay in the forest"
-nene "future tense marker"
2. nāigi "yes" mi "I"
3. bEigunenema → bEigu + -nene + ma.
ma "negative marker"
4. ekwi "they"
5. nāoya "where, which place"
une?a → une? + -a. une? to go.
-a "continuous tense suffix"
6. kuñjimuriñjotekata →
→kuñjimuri + -injo + -te + -kata
(i of kunjimuri is elided),
kuñjimuri "tea"
-injo "to drink",
-te "verbal suffix indicating direction or location"
-kata "from", eti "we"
tōrokanene → tōroka + -nene.

- toroka "to go for hunting".
- -nene "future tense suffix"
- 7. koligaba "where" kue "pig".
gaikwabe → gaikwa + -be
gaikwa "to kill," -be "completive"

- 8. gaiboralea "in the forest"
- 9. ice kue gaiboraleakutu
"now pigs are plasty in the forest".
- 10. ts̄nkita gaiboralea ijejidda kuele eti gaikwabe
"yesterday we killed three pigs in the forest".
- 11. ts̄nkita etilokwale be kue kutuga
"yesterday we ate too much pig".

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Notes

- 8. gaiboralea → gaiborale + -a
gaiborale "forest"
-a "in" (location marker)
- 9. ice "now", gaiboraleakutu → gaiborale+a+kutu
-kutu "much"
- 10. ts̄nkita "yesterday"
ijejidda "three" kuele → kue + -le
kue "pig". -le "plural suffix"
- 11. etilokwalebe → et + -ilokwale + -be
et "we" (prefix) -ilokwale "to eat"
-be "completive suffix"

kuekutuga → kue + -kutu + -ga
 -kutu "much"
 -ga "definitive"

1. geakaba ūaɔya ni une?nene
 "tomorrow where will you go?"
2. geakaba gaiboralea gigi eti benenene
 "tomorrow we shall dig tuber in the forest"
3. ēñallei wagilia cendalu bene ati
 "the woman dig tuber by an iron (implement)"
4. cendalu etilokwale ati. "we eat tubers"
5. eti gaiboralekata gigi lakonne ati
 "we bring gigi (a kind of tuber) from the forest"
6. inenlei weleweleta kane taoa ati
 "the foreigners often eat rice"

Notes.

1. geakaba "tomorrow"
 ūaɔya "where" ni "you (sg.)"
 une?nene → une? + -nene. une? "to go"
 -nene "future tense suffix".
2. gaiboralea → gaiborale + -a. gaiborale "forest"
 "-a in" (locative). gigi "a kind of tuber". eti "we"
 benenene → bene + -nene. bene "to dig tuber"
3. ēñallei → ēñale + -le + -i
 ēñale "woman". -le "plural suffix" -i "the article"
 wagilia → wagili + -a. wagili "iron implement"

cendalu "tuber".

bene "to dig"

ati "usual aspect of action"

4. etilokwale → eti + -ilokwale.
eti "we" (prefix)
-ilokwale "to eat"
5. gaiboralekata → gaiborale + -kata
-kata "from"
lakonne "bring"
6. inenlei → inene + -le + -i
("-e of inene is dropped)" see p. 56
inene "foreigner" -i article.
weleweta "often"
kane "rice"
taoa "eat"

1. kwaceli "what is this ?"

2. likai da?ne "this is tree/canoe"

3. kwacelē "what is that ?"

4. lēkai wagili "that is iron implement
(to dig tuber etc.)"

5. ña ga kēewa? "is it his harpoon ?"

6. ñaigi "yes"

7. ñarema "no"

8. mi giline ma "I do not know"

9. minacekamebe "I forgot"
10. miñagelebe ma "I did not tell lie"

— — — — —

Notes.

1. kwaceli → kwace + li
kwace "what". li "this"
2. likai → li + -kai -kai "person or thing"
da?ñe "tree / canoe"
3. kwacelč → kwace + lč
lč "that"
4. lčkai → lč + -kai
wagili "iron implement for digging tuber etc."
5. na "interrogative" ga "his"
kčewa? "harpoon"
6. mi "I". giliñe "know" ma "not"
9. minacekamebe → m- + -inacekame + -be
-inacekame "forget" -be "completive suffix"
10. miñagelebe → m- + -iñagele + -be m- "I" (prefix)
-iñagele "to tell a lie"

1. kwace ni omokabe "did you sleep? (sg.)"
2. naigi "yes"
3. mi omokabe "I slept"
4. lloaomokabe "all sleep here"
5. mi omokabe ma "I did not sleep"

— — — — —

Notes.

1. kwace "question marker". ni "you" (sg.)
omokabe → omoka + -be omoka "sleep"
-be "completive suffix"
2. naigi "yes". 3. mi "P".
5. ma "not" (negation)

1. n̄akai eñia "who is laughing ?"
2. ekwi eñia "they are laughing"
3. mi eñia ma "I am not laughing"
4. gi eñia "he is laughing"

Notes

1. n̄akai → n̄a + -kai, n̄a "which."
-kai "person or thing"
eñia → eñi + -a eñi "to laugh"
"-a" "present continuous tense suffix"
2. ekwi "they"
4. gi "he"

Some Vowel deletion rules and assimilation rules.

1. When number suffixes -da/-di, (sg.) -dena/-deni (dual), -le (plural) are added to the nouns ending in 'e' the final vowel 'e' of the noun is elided and the preceding consonant undergoes a change (regressive assimilation).

Note that all nasal consonants change to alveolar nasal 'n' before 'd' and l, and other consonants are assimilated to 'd' and 'l'.

Examples

ueme+da > uemda > uenda "dog" (sg.)

ueme+dena > uemdена > uendena

"two dogs" (dual)

ueme+le > uemle > uenle

"dogs" (pl.) (more than two)

Here when number suffixes are added, first, final vowel 'e' of the noun ueme is elided and then bilabial nasal 'm' changes to alveolar 'n'.

umuge+da > umugda > umudda "pigeon" (sg.)

umuge+dena > umugdена > umuddena

"two pigeons" (dual)

umuge+le > umugle > umulle

"pigeons" (pl.) (more than two)

da?ne+da > da?nda > da?nda

"canoe, tree" (sg.)

da?ne+dena > da?ndena > da?ndena

"two canoes, two trees" (dual)

da?ne+le > da?nle > da?nle

"canoes, trees (pl.)" (more than two)

inene+da > inenda "foreigner" (sg.)

inene+dena > inendena "two foreigners (dual)"

inene+le > inenle "foreigners (pl.)"

(more than two)

debaye+di > debaydi > debaddi "daughter (sg.)"

debaye+deni > debaydeni > debaddeni

"two daughters" (dual)

kame+da > kamda > kanda "mat (sg.)"

kame+dena > kamdena > kandena

"two mats (dual)"

kame+le>kamle>kanle "mats (pl.) (more than two)"

1.1. Generally no change takes place when the number suffixes -ri/-ra (sg.), -reni/-rena (dual), -nni (plural) are added to the nouns, especially ending in 'e' or 'a'.

Examples:

ale + ri > aleri "child (sg.)"

ale + reni > alereni "two children (dual)"

ale + nni > alenni "children (pl.) more than two"

debaye + nni > debayenni

"daughters (pl.) more than two"

wawa + ra > wawara "crow" (sg.)

wawa + rena > wawarena "two crows (dual)"

wawa + le > wawale "crows

(pl.) more than two"

1.2. Plural suffix -le when added to the verb.

It has already been mentioned under verbal suffixes that some verbs seem to require plural suffix when the subject is in plural form e.g., etilokowallebe → et- + ilokowale + le + be "we ate" (pl.)

It may be noted here that when plural suffix is added to the verb, only the final vowel of the verb is elided.

Examples

etilokowallea → et- + ilokowale + le + a

"we are eating"

nilokowallea → n- + ilokowale + le + a

"you are eating (pl.)"

etinjlea → et- + injo + le+a "we are drinking"

where the plural suffix is -lle, the final vowel of the verb is not elided

e.g., otolagellebe → ot- + olage + lle + be

"we danced"

2. When the words are combined, the final vowel of the preceding word and the initial vowel of the following word is generally found to be elided ; e.g.

ueme "dog"

-itayera "small"

ueme + itayera > uemtayera > uentayera 'puppy'

Here the final vowel 'e' of the preceding word "ueme" and the initial vowel 'i' of the following word -itayera, both are elided and the bilabial nasal 'm' of the preceding word (ueme) is assimilated by the following consonant alveolar 't' to its homoorganic nasal i.e. 'n' ; other examples are :

-ibile "arm"

-ite "bite"

-ibile + ite > -ibilte > -ibitte

"bite by snake on the arm"

-ome "hand"

-ome + -ite > omte > onte

"bite by snake on the hand"

-uge "foot" + -ite > -ugte > -uite

"bite by snake on the foot"

However some exceptions have also been observed in the data.

-ibo "flesh of thigh"

-ibo + -ite > -ibote "bite by snake on the flesh of thigh"

Here only the initial vowel of the following word is elided.

abe "cheat",

-abe + -ile > abete/abette	"bite by snake on the chest"
umegi "the dog"	umegi + atekkebe >
atekkebe "barked"	> umegatekkebe "dog bite"

Here the final vowel of the word is long, as in "dog barked".

When certain suffixes are added to indicate syntactic relations, following changes take place :

1.1 When the possessed form is independent, the possessor takes the suffix '-a' after the article (-gi, -i), the vowel of the article is elided, e.g.

éne + gi + a > énega "the onge's"

énega kwelabe "Onge's cloth"

icelegi + e > icelege "through the path"

$iEgi + a > iEga$ "by the knife"

da?negi + e > da?nege "by means of canoe"

1.2 When the postpositions, viz. -ota -anka, -ejeka and -onota are added to the nouns or pronouns the final vowel of the noun or pronoun is elided. e.g.;

mi + ota > mota "towards me"

ueme + ota > uemota "towards the dog"

ni + anka > nańka "at you, by you" (pl.)

totakuegi + anka > totakuegańka "by the iron file"

ni + ejeka > nejeka "away from you"

koońegi + ejeka > koońegejeka

gi + onota > gonota "with him"

beleme + onota > belemonota "with smoke"

(see more examples under syntactic relations).

Generally personal pronouns occur in the subject position as substitute of nouns, but when they occur in the position of an object or as possessor they generally take the suffix -a, the vowel -i of the personal pronoun is elided.

mi+a>ma "me, my"

eti+a>eta "our, us"

When the reflexive pronouns are formed by adding the suffix -akui the final vowel i of the pronouns is also elided. e.g.

mi+akui>makui "myself"

gi+akui>gakui "himself"

See more examples under syntactic relations.

Tense suffixes viz.

- be "completive aspect"
- le "verbalizer suffix"
- a~E "present continuous tense"
or immediate future"
- nene "future tense, imperative mood,
command etc."
- kaka "subsequent or distant future"
- ba "indefinite future"
- maba~ -ba "conditional"

When added to the various forms indicating tense aspect etc. no elision takes place.

examples.

- une?be "went"
- omokabe "slept"
- efibe "laughed"
- minjobe "I drank"
- tbakile "night falls"
- milokwalea "I am eating"
- ginjoa "he is drinking"
- inkE "will go"
- eniE "laughing"
- inkönene "will go / go away (order)"
- eninene "will laugh / laugh (order)"
- injonene "you will eat / you eat (order)" (sg.)
- ekwilokowallekaka "they will eat"

lakonnekaka "will bring"

minjoba "I shall drink"

lakonneba "shall bring"

Some more sentences :

1. mi kue toeba I pig eat-shall
"I shall eat pig"
2. tōkita eti kue taoebe yesterday we pig ate
"yesterday we ate pig"
3. gi bujeyebinkēbe he walked-went
"he went away walking"
4. mi cōgegantitebe I fish-the-shot-arrow
"I shot the fish with arrow"
5. ekwejalle abemoibe their-faces-look-similar
"their faces look similar"
6. ni māka ga aṅgibete belebe
you from-me him match-box gave
"you gave him the match box (taking) from me"
7. Inenegi kueilowabegi kuburanegea
foreigner-the pig-shot gun-by-the
"the foreigner shot the pig by the gun"
8. uemegatekkebe dog-the-barked
"the dog barked"

Note : Please see verbs for details.

9. gi ecElletucebe he children-sent
"he sent the children"

10. wega gi ga uebe
clay-by she him painted
"she painted him with clay"

11. tōnkitā gi tukirianega kueitekwatēbe
yesterday he spear-by pig-pierced"
"yesterday he hunted pig by the spear"

12. gi ukuannanka tañjaibube
he bucket-into honey-poured
"he poured honey in the bucket"

13. boaleta gi wayea noralebe
previously he both you-shaved-head
"previously he shaved the heads of both of you"

14. ecelegi ñoñoa
child-the is-sucking
"the child is sucking"
(milk from breast)

15. lua cilemegi ukitteEge
that moon -the rising (-ge indicative suffix)
"there the moon is rising"

16. lua tōnkului teikkeEge
that sun the setting (-ge indicative suffix)
"the sun is setting"

17. gi oana ma
he cry not
"he does not cry"

18. ice gi nariEleetanegirage
 now he coconut-the kernel-the eating
 (-ge indicative suffix)
 "now he is eating the coconut kernel"

19. geakaba mi likkaronnekaka
 tomorrow I this-thing-ask-shall
 "tomorrow I shall ask this thing"

20. čhegi bencamba eEkamame ati
 Onge - the die - when spirit become
 (usual aspect of action)
 "the Onge becomes a spirit after death"

21. uemegi čngamameba bencame ati
 dog - the old - become - when die
 (usual aspect of action)
 "the dog dies after becoming old"

22. onotagilelemba eti?nde ati
 perspire-when we-bathe (usual aspect of action)
 "we bathe if perspiring"

23. mi uneba galabukenene
 I going him-scold-shall
 "I shall scold him after going to him"

24. mi injobega manabebe, gimagibe
 I injobe made-my-wife, she made me husband
 "I made injobe (name of a woman) my wife,
 she made me her husband"

25. gi danekatitekabe
 he tree from fell-down
 "he fell down from the tree"

26. ekwanoikwabe
they - wrestled
"they wrestled"

27. ma likkayabenene
me this-thing-give
"give me this thing"

28. ñanacebegukweconene
your wife-the call
"call your wife"

29. etaikwa ma
us shoot not
"do not shoot us (arrow)"

30. ñinemake galimbe Enene
chair like this keep
"keep the chair like this"

31. koohegejeka iñkñene
snake-the away go
"go away from the snake".

32. nabe kwatebalenene
wife creek-go for fishing
"wife, go to the creek for fishing"

33. gi ñetañgale gonota daiegonta bElakwenene
he take-photo with-it tree-the-on stay
"stay on the tree when he takes photo"

34. *na kakodditeta takoddonne*
 your grandmother-from pipe ask
 "ask the (smoking) pipe from your grandmother."

35. *li icelege inkēnene*
 this path-by go
 "go by this path"

36. *nomega gatotalenene*
 your-hand-by it-clean
 "clean it by your hand".

37. *kinaga gite? tōkiba manolabelenkaka*
 two give night-in (future) I smoke shall
 "give two (cigarettes) I shall smoke in the night"

38. *debaye, inkēnene, nuteddi nayewabagi*
 daughter, go, your mother you called.
 "daughter, go, your mother called you."

39. *kwa nākai gawaleteke*
 (question) who peepinto
 "who is peeping into ?"

40. *nākai nejeka juka tetilebeke*
 who from-you tobacco refuse to give
 "who refuses to give you tobacco"

41. *nāgānkwentalegi*
 where-foreigner-the
 "where is the foreigner ?"

42. jokEñabe, ñagama këye
 wife, where my harpoon
 "wife, where is my harpoon?"

43. koma longotitayera
 where my mug-small
 "where is my small mug?"

44. kwa gi onero tbro
 (question) he where gone
 "where has he gone?"

45. abu ni onerukua une? ke
 hey! you which direction go
 "hey! in which direction are you going?"

46. koligaba tñkulukke
 where sun
 "where is the sun?"

47. ume ni ña ya bElakweke
 father you where stay
 "father, where are you staying?"

48. onereta gi mayewaba
 why he me call
 "why is he calling me?"

49. onereta ni aie beteke
 why you again go
 "why do you go again?"

50. kwace ekwi ligoreta namebe
what they there made fire
"did they make fire over there?"
51. kwa ñakaalabukeke uenlei
(question) whom-bark dogs the
"to whom are the dogs barking?"
52. mi giliñe
I it-know
"I know it"